

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, as presented in the 26 August 2005 Article 34 Amendment, are amended to remove reference numbers. Regarding claim 1, it is noted that the International Preliminary Examination Report on Patentability stated that the features of a “rigid” viewing tube with a window “at a fixed distance from the port,” with “the passage being substantially unobstructed between the port and window whereby an imaging device may be inserted into the passage and moved axially along the passage and also laterally therein with respect to the window,” could not be “clearly and unambiguously derived from the application as originally filed. We submit that the application contains support for these features under 35 USC §112(1) in (for example) Figs. 2 and 4 (note monolithic tube 202) and page 7 line 3-page 8 line 3, page 12 lines 9-16, and page 14 lines 15-22. While the viewing tube 200 of Fig. 4 is not explicitly stated to be “rigid” in the application, this would be evident to any ordinary artisan: the viewing tube 200 is installed on a vacuum chamber, and thus the imaging tube would not be flexible or otherwise nonrigid, particularly where it is depicted with imaging devices (microscope 302 and camera 304) affixed to positioner 300 via mounting arms 314: if the viewing tube 200 was not rigid, it would strike the imaging device as it flexes or otherwise moves as vacuum is applied and released within the chamber.

New claims 21-25 then find support as follows:

- Claim 21: Claims 1, 19, 20.
- Claim 22: Claim 1.
- Claim 23: Figs. 1, 2, and 4, and page 7 line 3 onward.
- Claim 24: Claim 1.
- Claim 25: Page 8 line 4 onward.

If any questions regarding the application arise, please contact the undersigned attorney. Telephone calls related to this application are welcomed and encouraged. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to deposit account number 18-2055.

For the Applicant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig A. Fieschko', written over a horizontal line.

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